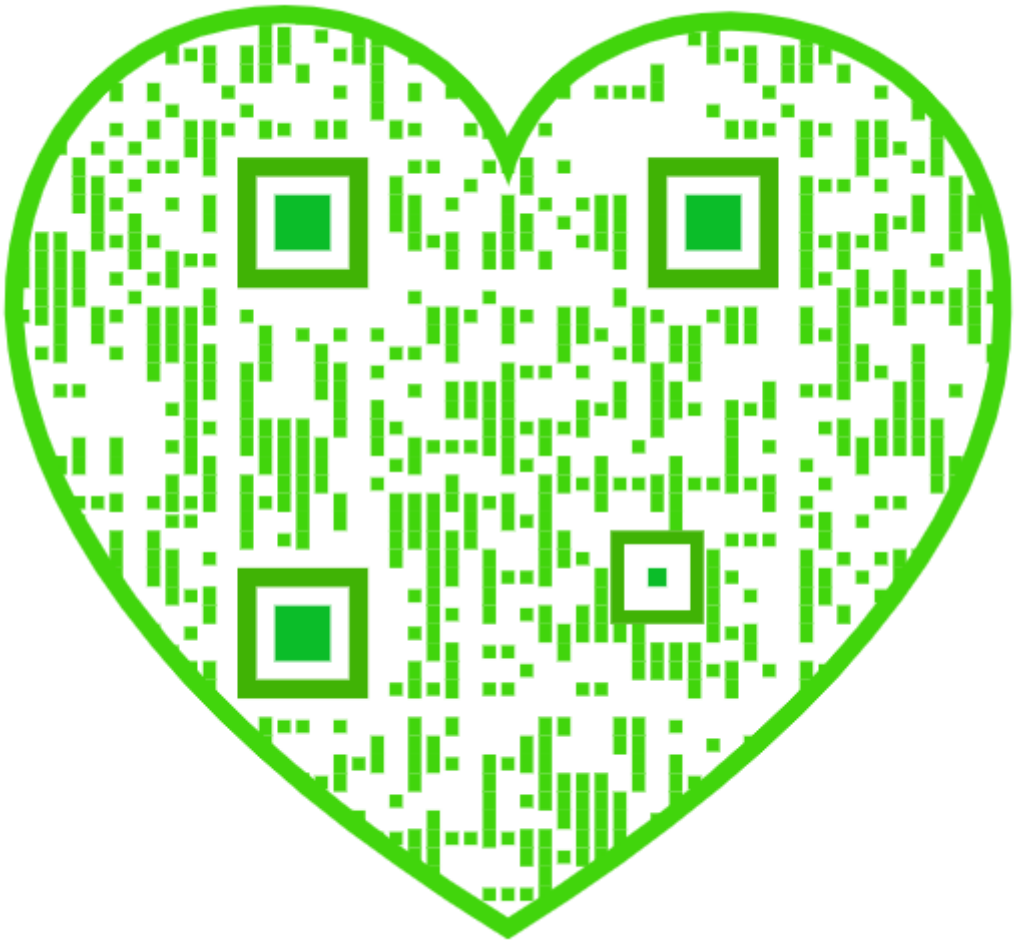
I. *Obſervations on the Planting and Culture of Tobacco in* Zeylan, *by Mr* Strachan.

THere are two ſorts of Tobacco, which both they call *Dunkol*, the ſignification is a Smoaking Leaf, for *Dun* is Smoak, *kol* a Leaf, the one they call *Hingele Dunkol* or *Singele Dunkol*; for they make no diſtinction of *H* and *S*; the other is called *Dunkol Kapadá*, which word *Kapada* ſignifies gelding, and is derived from the *Portugueſe*; which Tobacco is very intoxicating, and much ſtronger than the former, it is the ſame Plant, the difference is only that *Singeleſe* Tobacco has little attendance, upon the other a great deal of pains is taken until it be fit for uſe, and it is done after the following manner.

They clear a little piece of Ground, in which they ſow the Seed of Tobacco, as the Gardiners here ſow Parſly and Coleworts; againſt the time that this is ready for tranſplanting, they chooſe a piece of Ground, which they Hedge about; when the Buffelo's begins to chew the Cud, they are put within this Hedge Ground, and let ſtand until they have done, and this they continue day and night, until the Ground be ſufficiently dunged, then the Ground is tilled with a Spade, in form of a Pick-axe, ſuch as Carpenters uſe when they ſmooth Planks, by howeing the Ground, and turning the ſame, and mixing the Dung among the Earth; when they have made the Ground ſmooth, they remove the Plants out of the Bed wherein they were ſown, and ſet them in this Ground, about a foot diſtance one from another, and then they grow up almoſt like a Dock;



Dock ; when the ſtem has got 15 Leaves, they cut off all the tops of the Plants ; if they deſire not to have the Tobacco to be very ſtrong, they let it grow until it have 18 or 20, if they will have it ſtronger, they top it when it has got 10 or 12 Leaves, not counting the 3 or 4 loweſt Leaves, which are neareſt the Ground, becauſe they never grow ſo big and good as thoſe above them. Thus the moiſture of the Ground being hindred to waſte in more Leaves, Flowers and Seed, all the ſaid moiſture enters into the Leaves remaining, ſo that theſe Leaves will be 4 or 5 times larger, fuller of fatneſs, ſtrength and vertue, than the Tobacco which is not ordered after this manner. Now the moiſture aſcending from the Root, being conſtrained within the bounds of theſe Leaves, forces his way betwixt the Stem and Leaves remaining, and ſends forth young Sprouts, and would grow forth in Branches, if no care were taken to hinder. Therefore every 3 or 4 days they go through all the Stems, and break off theſe Buds whenever they ſpring forth, and this they continue until theſe Leaves be ripe (which takes as much time as the *Singele* Tobacco does, which gets Flowers and ripe Seed, and then begins to wither and ſpoil if, no uſe be made of it) which is known by the thickneſs and firmneſs.

Then before the Leaf begins to wither and is green, they cut down the Stem together with the Leaves, and do bring them into their Houſes, and lay them in a heap ; and thus the Leaves will begin to ferment, turn hot and ſweat, then when the Leaves begins to ſweat, they turn the innermoſt outmoſt, that they may eaſily ferment, otherwiſe the innermoſt would ferment too much, ſpoil and rot ; thus the longer they lye in a heap together, the Tobacco turns the more dark of colour. When they think it has ſweat enough, they hang it aſunder upon Cords, until the Leaves be dry, then they ſeparate the Leaves from the Stalks,

and

and lay them up in bundles together until they have uſe for them.

Now the other Tobacco, called *Singele Dunkol*, is only Sown and then Planted, and has liberty to grow, to ſhoot out Flower and Seed, thus all ripen together, then it is cut down and caſt together in a heap; ſome will ferment too much and rot, others will ferment not at all, and will remain green, altho it be dry, and will have a ſmell of Hay or dry Graſs. The Souldiers, who delight to Smoak a big Pipe full, and that frequently in one day do Smoak this common ſort, ſome will mix ſome of the *Kapada* among it; the *Cingualeſes*, who ſmoak not ſo much at once, neither ſo frequently, do take a piece of the *Kapada* and roll it together, then roll a piece of dry Leaf of the *Wattukan* Trees about this, and kindle it at one end and ſuck at the other until it be conſumed. Some do chew it among Betle, taking but very little at once.